

## *B'Yom HaHu: Judaism in an Uncertain World*

*Welcome to the 20<sup>th</sup> annual OHALAH Conference.*

Welcome to our 20<sup>th</sup> annual gathering!

May you arrive with joyous anticipation and come away with inspiration, creative practices, (re)newed professional and personal connections, and an energized sense of Jewish community.

Our conference theme could not be more relevant in these uncertain times.

We are delighted to welcome Rabbi Shai Held as our keynote speaker. Rabbi Held is a co-founder and the President, Dean and Chair in Jewish Thought at Mechon Hadar, in addition to being the Director of the Center for Jewish Leadership and Ideas. Rabbi Held is known for his innovative interpretations of Torah and has recently published [The Heart of Torah](#), two volumes of original essays.

We are excited to offer an extraordinary variety of workshops engaging all aspects of the theme, as well as plenary sessions addressing topics related to current events. You will be nourished by the diverse davvenen options lead by some of our very talented colleagues.

And that's not all . . . You will find an expanded 'shuk' with new and familiar vendors, the return of lounge and hallway music, the "Chaplain is In," a variety of mid-Tuesday options both at the Omni and in the surrounding area, and the celebratory cabaret on Wednesday evening. New this year is the Tuesday evening 'arts' option, from which you will be able to participate in dance, story-telling or mandala-making.

Details about conference logistics are available below. Program details are linked to the mobile-friendly conference program at [www.ohalahconference.org](http://www.ohalahconference.org).

Please know we are here to help make this a most rewarding and memorable 20<sup>th</sup> annual conference.

*Bruchim ha'baim!*

*Rabbi Raachel Jurovics, OHALAH President*

*Rabbi Elyse Seidner-Joseph and Rabbi Eva Sax-Bolder (Program Committee Co-Chairs)*

*Rabbi Hannah Dresner, Rabbi Dan Goldblatt, Rabbinic Pastor De Herman, Rabbi Yitz Husbands-Hankin, Rabbi Yocheved Mintz, Rabbi Oren Steinitz, Rabbi Simcha Zevit, OHALAH Conference Program Committee*

*Rebecca Hall, Conference Planner*

*Lynn Pisetzner, Conference Registrar*

*Lewis Copulsky, Conference Webmaster*

*Shonna Husbands-Hankin, Hiddur Mitzvah designer*

## FROM THE SHABBATON PLANNERS AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE

### Please Take Good Care of Yourself and the Rest of Us!

*Bruchim Habaim!* Welcome! We are thrilled you are all here!

We have some recommendations to help all of us enjoy our time together.

~ Sniff! Please don't use any scented products while at the *Shabbaton* and Conference. Some of us are highly allergic to scents of any kind, including perfumes, natural oils and essences, and body washing products. We understand that many in our *hevre* enjoy welcoming Shabbat with the scent of eternity; please make sure that it is a virtual (and hence virtuous) scent only!

~ Elevation! If you are flying to Colorado, start hydrating before you leave home. A good rule of thumb: Drink 8 ounces of water for every hour that you are on the plane. Broomfield is a mile-high (just like Denver). Please **drink plenty of water** to stay hydrated. The Omni has humidifiers and other ways to help you adjust to the altitude. Please ask at the front desk.

~ Achoo! It's flu and cold season! Please sneeze and cough into your sleeves and wash your hands frequently

~ Zzzz...Get lots of rest and sleep. There is so much going on, so much you'll want to do, but please listen to your bodies and take time out to rest when you need to.

~ Aaah. If you find the need to work out, be pampered, or take a swim, do make use of the workout room, heated pool, or make an appointment with the spa. Use of the fitness center is complimentary and we receive a 20% discount at the Hotel's Mokara Spa for services during the conference dates.

~ Ring...ring...Please remember to turn off your cell phones, set them on "vibrate" or "do not disturb" before entering davenen, workshops and plenary sessions.

~ Timeliness is next to...All sessions—pleary, workshop and davenen, will begin on time. Be respectful of the offerings and arrive early/on time.

# **IMPORTANT 2018 INFORMATION**

from the OHALAH Program Committee and Conference Staff

## **Conference Handouts, Papers and Recordings**

In our continued support of going “green,” we have made the conference schedule available in a mobile-friendly web format. The link to “handouts” will ask you for the password **conf613**. If you have 3G on your phone, tablet or computer, you can access the site throughout the conference.

**If you use wireless only or prefer paper, please download or print** this information packet, welcome letter, latest one-page conference/Shabbaton schedules, and relevant handouts before you arrive.

Recordings will be posted *after* the conference.

## **Bring Your Own Siddur**

Please bring your own Siddur to all conference davvenen sessions. Leaders will provide supplementary handouts with creative readings and special additions only. Leaders assume that each of us is relying on an edition of the Siddur familiar and precious to us, and will not announce page numbers.

## **Internet Access**

Internet access is complimentary in all guest rooms. Internet access in the meeting space is limited.

## **Dining Rooms**

We have dedicated two places for many of our meals: Interlocken A and the Private Dining Room. Both spaces are program-free to allow more time for fellowship and connecting with colleagues. Specific tables may be set aside at some meals for affinity group or working groups.

As in past years, Interlocken Ballroom A will serve as our primary dining space. For some meals this year, the Private Dining Room has been pre-booked to

accommodate large meetings. When it is not pre-booked, it will be open for general seating. Please check the mealtime schedule before seating yourself there.

### **An Important Note from our OHALAH *Mashgiach*, Rabbi Victor Gross**

The kitchen, including utensils, pots and pans, stoves, warming ovens, refrigerator, and freezer are kashered according to traditional halachic standards. All food items that require a *Hekshur* have either OU or other certification (e.g., Circle K). Eco-kashrut is important. Most, if not all, of the vegetables and fruit are organic and local wherever possible. Eggs are cage-free.

### **Breakfast in the Shuk, Sunday 8:30-10:30 a.m.**

**Sunday's delicious breakfast option is cash only.** You will not be able to use a credit card or bill to your room. A variety of breakfast items will be available, including vegetarian breakfast burritos, bagels with lox and cream cheese, and a selection of muffins, croissants and granola bars ranging in price from \$3.50 to \$7.00 per item.

### **Shuk Hours: Shop for Beautiful and Educational Items**

Sunday 8:30 am - 2:30pm; 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Monday 8:15 -9:00 a.m.; 12:30 -1:30 p.m.; 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm

Tuesday 8:15- 9:00 a.m.; 12:00-3:00 p.m.; 6:34 to 7:45 p.m.

Wednesday 8:15 am - 9:00 am; 12:30 -1:30 p.m.

### **Tefillah Buddies**

Tefillah Buddies are people who pray for one another. Beginning Sunday evening, you will have the opportunity to draw the name of a conference participant from a special basket. Please send prayers, healing, and love throughout the conference to the person whose name you have drawn. You may or may not know the person. You may choose to seek them out and speak with them, or to keep your prayers anonymous.

## **The Yerusha Room, formerly known as the Reb Zalman Meditation Room (Cedar Room)**

Please visit this contemplative space, infused with words, images, and presence of our inspirational teacher Rabbi Zalman Shachter-Shalomi. Created by Sandy Pond and this year, designed by Jewish ritual artist Shonna Husbands-Hankin, the Yerusha Room will be an evolving space to acknowledge, honor and remember colleagues and teachers who have left this earthly plane.

## **The Chaplain is IN!**

The Rabbinic Pastors extend a sincere welcome to you at OHALAH. The conference is packed with top-notch speakers and stimulating workshops, as well as all of you, dear *chevre*. If you find you need one-on-one time to process your experiences or you are feeling challenged or overwhelmed and just need a listening heart and ear we are happy to tell you that "The Chaplain is In"! We offer a safe and confidential space to process whatever might be on your heart and mind. To find the chaplain "on call" please check the schedule and contact information posted at the registration desk and on the bulletin board located outside Interlocken B.

**Please note:** the individual services offered and provided to you by Rabbinic Pastors at this conference or otherwise, are private and personal to you, and neither OHALAH, its officers, directors, staff, employees, volunteers or faculty are in any way responsible for these services.

## **TUESDAY AFTERNOON BREAK**

You may choose to relax at the hotel, carpool or taxi to Boulder for lunch, or participate in one of the suggested activities.

## **Conference Evaluation – New Simplified Forms!**

This year's OHALAH Conference evaluation form has only three qualitative questions. Please take a few minutes to help our conference keep improving. We need a significant return rate in order to see a pattern in the responses! You can fill out a hardcopy at the registration desk; download a copy and send it by email to [administrator@ohalah.org](mailto:administrator@ohalah.org); or fill it out on line at [www.ohalahconference.org](http://www.ohalahconference.org)

## **Hotel Amenities and Spa Discount**

Use of the Fitness Center, parking, and wi-fi in all guest rooms are complimentary. In addition, conference attendees receive a 20% discount at the hotel's Mokara spa.

## **Ground Transportation**

We have secured the services of Green Ride in Boulder as our ground transportation provider of choice. The fee is \$30 each way and is a direct route (via the expressway) to/from the hotel. Complete information can be found on the OHALAH website. To make a reservation, click the link:

<http://greenrideco3.hudsonltd.net/res?USERIDENTRY=OHALAH&LOGON=GO>

**If you have any Green Ride questions, please call: [303-997-0238](tel:303-997-0238)**

## **Need Something During the Conference?**

If you need anything, please go first to the OHALAH registration table in the Interlocken AB Foyer and if no one is available, go to the hotel front desk for assistance.